

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 9 1986  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Mercado de las Carnes (Meat Market)

and/or common Plaza de los Perros (Dog's Plaza)

**2. Location**

street & number An Alley connecting Mayor and León Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Ponce — vicinity of Ponce

state Puerto Rico code 072 county Ponce code 0790

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

**4. Owner of Property**

name Ponce Municipal Government

street & number Municipio de Ponce

city, town Ponce — vicinity of Ponce state Puerto Rico

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ponce Registry of Deeds

street & number Ponce Government Center, Las Américas Avenue

city, town Ponce state Puerto Rico

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Architectural Survey of Ponce has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office

city, town San Juan state Puerto Rico

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The old "Mercado de las Carnes" or Meat Market of Ponce, occupies a narrow through-lot connecting Calle Mayor and Calle León at the center of the block between Calle Estrella and Calle Castillo. In plan, the concrete, wood and sheet-metal structure consists of an elongated quadrangle created by galleries opening onto an attenuated interior court. The neo-mudejar and Art Deco decorative facades appear to be independent of the actual utilitarian structure inside, as they shift slightly in opposite direction off the central court axis to accommodate the mall.

The east and west facades are identical, each consisting of a rectangular mass of approximately 20 feet in height and 30 in width, which defines the major facade element. This rectangle is divided into five ground-storey bays: a series of three central bays flanked by slightly narrower wall areas. The bays are defined by a series of four vertical buttress-like piers which extend slightly above the ridge of the building.

The three central bays form the frontispiece of the facade, each similarly treated as an access to the interior court. Each bay contains a horseshoe arch approximately 1/2 the height of the facade and almost the full width of the bay. Above each arch, a decorative spandrel panel contains glazed mosaic tiles in intricate moorish patterns. Within each bay, a horizontal band stretching between the concrete piers separates the spandrel area from the parapet above. Above the central bay, the parapet is completely solid, whereas the parapets of the flanking bays are articulated with open, semi-circular concrete forms. At this level, the concrete piers are decorated with vertical rectangular panels of glazed multi-colored mosaic tiles.

The bays flanking the frontispiece are solid and unarticulated, although the southern bay has been punctured at ground level by wide, wooden doors as access to a street-side refreshments stand. A concrete cantilever shades the entrance and a vertical sign above announces the business' name.

At the interior court, a series of simplified, square, Tuscan columns creates a gallery enclosing individual market areas within each bay. The stoa-like galleries are sheltered by a wood and sheet-metal roof pitched inward toward the court. Additional continuous wood and sheet-metal eaves, stemming from the colonnade and suspended by link-chains from the architrave provide shelter within the court for those doing their shopping.

This property has remained basically unaltered all elements described contribute to the structure's value. The only alteration is the refreshments stands' sign and the covering of the upper part of the stand's arch which are non-contributing elements.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1926 **Builder/Architect** Architect Rafael Carmoega

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ponce's Plaza de los Perros (The Plaza of the Dogs), receives its name from the packs of stray dogs that gathered there to feed on the discarded meat scraps. A product of the rapid urban growth experienced in the city during the early 20th century, the Plaza was built in 1926 to relieve the overcrowded farmer's market and provide an adequate market place for perishable meat products.

Located across the street from the old Plaza del Mercado (Farmer's Market) the Plaza de los Perros serves as an urbanistic and commercial compliment to the market place. Occupying a long, narrow lot, previously pertaining to two back-to-back structures, the meat market connects two of Ponce's busiest commercial streets, Mayor and León, providing mid-block circulation to the main market, utilizing the pedestrian mall concept so popular today. Of significance is the adaptation of such innovative concepts to traditional social and architectural elements (the farmers' market and Moorish detailing), representing the contemporary modernistic trends in architecture. The double-function of such a traditional space was an innovation in Ponce and in Puerto Rico as a whole.

Of great importance is that the building's design bears the signature of Rafael Carmoega, one of the most established Puerto Rican architects of the 20th century. A graduate of the Cornell University School of Architecture, and subsequent director of the Architectural division of Puerto Rico's Department of the Interior, Carmoega also designed the Capitol Building, the University of Puerto Rico Main Campus at Río Piedras, the School of Tropical Medicine, and the Mayaguez City Hall, all on the National Register, in addition to other significant buildings. In his interests to preserve Hispanic traditions in the wake of the recent change of sovereignty from Spain to the United States, Carmoega utilizes the Spanish Baroque and Neo-Mudejar vocabularies in his designs, emphasizing the use of glazed mosaic tiles in many buildings. The Plaza de los Perros is a fine example of this latter style, incorporating glazed mosaics, horseshoe arches, and galleries in a mosque-like space for commercial usage.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

La Gran Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico, Vol XIX, "Arquitectura y Leyes", Ed. Rumbo, Madrid 1976 Acevedo, Cruz, Joaquín, Conservación: Area de la Plaza del Mercado de Ponce, Escuela de Arquitectura U.P.R., 1982 (unpublished)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 942 M<sup>2</sup> = .22 acres

Quadrangle name Ponce

Quadrangle scale 1:20,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	7	5	2	6	9	0	1	9	9	3	6	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See enclosed location plan

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joaquín Acevedo Cruz, State Architect and Félix Julián del Campo, State Historian

organization P.R.S.H.P.O.

date March 1986

street & number Box 82 La Fortaleza

telephone 809-721-3737

city or town San Juan

state Puerto Rico

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mariano G. Coronas Castro

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Amy Schlager

date 11/17/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

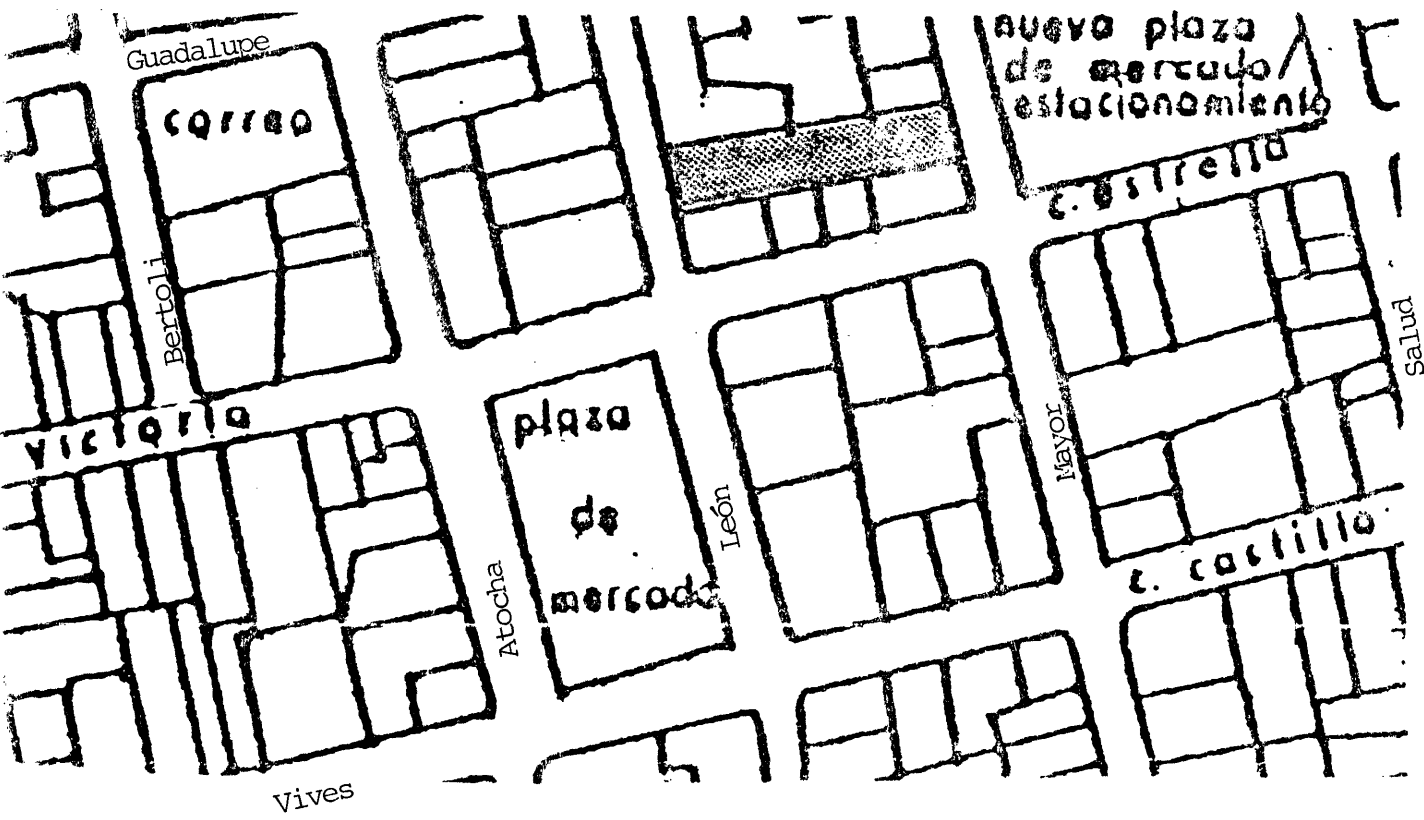
For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Mercado de las Carnes (Meat Market)

Continuation sheet Plaza de los Perros (Plaza) <sup>Docs</sup> Item number 10

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MAPA DE LOCALIZACION:



Scale - 1:4,000